

# INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

## National Park Service

All or some of the information provided may be available to the public

<b>Reporting Year:</b> 1997	<b>Park:</b> Shenandoah NP
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<b>Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email):</b> No co-investigators	
<b>Permit#:</b> SHEN1997AULI	
<b>Park-assigned Study Id. #:</b> unknown	
<b>Project Title:</b> Shenandoah National Park Backcountry And Wilderness Visitor Study (N-227)	
<b>Permit Start Date:</b> Jan 01, 1998	<b>Permit Expiration Date</b> Jan 01, 1998
<b>Study Start Date:</b> Jan 01, 1997	<b>Study End Date</b> Jan 01, 1999
<b>Study Status:</b> Completed	
<b>Activity Type:</b> Research	
<b>Subject/Discipline:</b> Other	
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand what Shenandoah backcountry and wilderness visitors think, feel, and know about wilderness;;Understand what Shenandoah backcountry and wilderness visitors expect and desire from their Shenandoah backcountry experiences;;Assess support for potential management actions	
<b>Findings and Status:</b> 120 semi-structured interviews were conducted at selected high, moderate, and low use trailheads during October, 1997. These asked for visitors' reasons for coming to the park; positive and negative aspects of their trip; whether they felt their hike was a wilderness hike; what they think wilderness means; whether they had been to designated wilderness in the past; whether they felt that they had experienced solitude on their hike (and why); and whether they felt the area was crowded. They were also asked to indicate whether they felt a range of developments and activities were appropriate in wildernesses. The most important factors contributing to the hike were weather, experiences, setting factors, trail conditions, and the absence of other people. About half of the respondents felt they had had a wilderness experience; half did not. The presence of other people was a key factor in this evaluation, as was the condition and size of trails and physical location of the area. Half of all respondents indicated that wildlife is characteristic of wilderness (according to their personal definitions), while about a third mentioned access issues (location, remoteness, trails) and a third mentioned the absence of people. 85% experienced solitude; usually qualified as "in places" or "at times." Most did not feel crowded.	
<b>For this study, were one or more specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analyses?</b> No	
<b>Funding provided this reporting year by NPS:</b> 0	<b>Funding provided this reporting year by other sources:</b> 0
<b>Fill out the following ONLY IF the National Park Service supported this project in this reporting year by providing money to a university or college</b>	
<b>Full name of college or university:</b>	<b>Annual funding provided by NPS to university or college this reporting</b>

n/a	<b>year:</b> 0
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